



OSCA Newsletter

February 2025

Welcome to our OSCA first newsletter of 2025. The year began on a positive note after returning from the Christmas break, and we are continuing to see progression at OSCA in all aspects of the school. We hope that all students, staff and their families have a restful half-term, and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 25th February.

What's Been Happening at OSCA?

Year 11 Mock Exams

Over the past week, our Year 11 students have begun their final set of mock exams before their GCSE's begin in May. The students have been showing their commitment by turning up to intervention sessions, and really working hard over the past few months. It is important that students continue with their determination over the coming months, but it is also extremely important that they take care of their well-being throughout this time. For supportive resources, we have a section on our website called 'Support for GCSE Preparation', which contains lots of helpful information. The final week of mock exams continue when we return to school on Tuesday 25th February.

'Meet the Team' Coffee Morning

In the past week, we held our first coffee morning as a chance for parents/carers to meet with members of our senior leadership team. It was wonderful to hear that parents could see the improvements that were being made at OSCA and it was good to be able to discuss how we work together to make OSCA the best it can be. This was a great opportunity to share with parents and carers the feedback of our recent review, and their comments were highly valued. More information on the review is detailed later in this newsletter.

Empowering Our Students Through Real-World Learning: Character Development in Action

As part of our ongoing Character Development curriculum, our students have had the opportunity to learn from a variety of experts, including The DECCA Team and The Lucy Faithfull Foundation. These enriching experiences are designed to deepen their understanding of critical issues affecting young people today. All students participated in engaging assemblies led by The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, where they explored essential topics such as consent, sexualised language, and the importance of responsible image sharing. These discussions were eye-opening and equipped students with the knowledge they need to navigate the challenges they might face.

Year 9 students took part in a thought-provoking session with The DECCA Team, focusing on the risks of substance misuse—whether it's tobacco, vapes, alcohol, or cannabis. Through interactive conversations and activities, students learned how to make informed choices and avoid the dangers of these substances.

Meanwhile, Year 8 students joined The DECCA Team for an eye-opening session on alcohol use. They discussed the short and long-term effects of drinking and gained a deeper understanding of both the legal risks and personal consequences. As part of the session, students got to try “drunk goggles” to experience firsthand how alcohol can impair visual perception—an unforgettable, hands-on learning experience!

Through these impactful sessions, we're giving our students the tools to make positive, informed choices that will guide them through today's world.



Cricket Sporting Success!

It is always great to that students are continuing to be successful outside of school, as well as inside. One of our Year 9 students, Gurprabhjodh has shown his cricketing talent as he has been selected for the under 14 summer squad Cricket team for Staffordshire county. There is a rigorous selection process before reaching this stage, so this is a huge achievement in itself. Not only that, but in his last season he was named as Staffordshire's top run scorer, scoring over 400 runs for his county and was presented with the Coaches Award at Staffordshire Cricket's annual awards evening in November 2024. Since then, Gurprabhjodh has taken his success's even further as he was promoted from Smethwick 5th men's team to Smethwick 3rd men's team after scoring his first 50 in senior cricket. This was one of his best summer season's since he started playing cricket at the age of 7, having scored over 1100 runs and took over 30 wickets. This is brilliant news to hear, and we know that Gurprabhjods's cricketing journey will go from strength to strength. Congratulations Gurprabhjodh!



Brand New Pitch - Update

Each day we are getting closer to the brand new 3G pitch opening, as the final touches are being made. We know that this new facility will be an amazing space for our students and the wider community to use, and we can't wait for it to be in use. More details on the grand opening will be communicated soon.

OAT Review Feedback - A message from Mr McKinniss

This week, leaders from Ormiston Academies Trust conducted a review of OSCA to see the progress that has been made. They came in and spoke with students and teachers, observed lessons and student workbooks. It was a very positive experience, and as the new head, was really useful to see the progress that has been made here at OSCA. I was able to feedback in our 'meet the team' parental coffee morning this week, but for those who were not able to attend I would like to share some feedback from the review.

'Behaviour and culture in the school is massively improved.' I was pleased to hear this, given the work we have put in to 'The OSCA Way', which you can see on our website.

'Students spoken to, whether as part of a panel or in general conversation, were overwhelmingly polite. They were keen to express themselves and universally acknowledged that all aspects of the academy are better this year, the most noted area was that of behaviour and culture.' This comment about how polite our students are was a real moment of pride, and it shows what an amazing community OSCA really is.

One of the foci was to ensure there are positive relationships within the OSCA community, and the work we have done so far is really starting to come through. *'Students acknowledge that relationships with teachers are improving, the introduction of Remind, Ask, Tell is a contributing significantly to this. Teachers acknowledge this as a positive change.'* We will be continuing to work on what we call 'positive collisions' to build the community.

I hope that you are able to see the improvements that are being made here at OSCA, as you support us in making OSCA the outstanding place it is. With all reviews we also have developments and we will be working hard to ensure that students receive the best education during their time here at OSCA. As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday 24th February - Teacher Training Day - OSCA will be closed to all students on Monday 24th February for a staff training day.

Tuesday 25th February - Students Return to OSCA - Term begins for students on Tuesday 25th February. Students will return on a Week B timetable.

Tuesday 25th February - Year 11 Mocks Continue - Mock exams for Year 11 will continue when we return from the half-term break.

Safeguarding Notice

As school is closed there will be no DSLs available. However, parents can contact the following;

Social Care

Sandwell Children's Trust 0121 569 3100
Dudley 0300 555 0050 (out of hours - 0300 555 8574)
Birmingham Children's Trust - 0121 303 1888 (out of hours - 0121 675 4806)

Police

101 or 999

Mental Health

Black Country Minds;
Dudley - 01385 324 689
Sandwell - 0121 612 6620

Other agencies

Childline - 0800 1111
NSPCC - 0808 800 5000
Samaritans - 116 123